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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 005191

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR A/S JONES AND NEA A/S BURNS. NSC FOR BRYZA.  
OSD FOR ISA AND ISP. EUCOM FOR J5, J2, POLAD. CENTCOM FOR  
J5, POLAD.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2013  
TAGS: PREL MARR MOPS PTER TU I2  
SUBJECT: TURKS IN GEAR TO DECIDE ON STABILIZATION FORCE  
CONTRIBUTION BY SEPTEMBER 15

REF: OZKOK-JONES LETTER AUG 7

(U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires ad interim Robert  
Deutsch. Reason: 1.5 (B and D).

¶1. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

¶2. (S) DG for Mideast Affairs Burcuoglu met with Charge  
d'Affaires August 14 to lay out additional steps the GOT  
envisioned towards obtaining parliamentary approval for a  
Turkish contribution to the Iraq stabilization force by  
September 15. He noted that three delegations planned to  
travel to Iraq to assess the risks associated with a  
deployment and get in touch with the local population.

-- The first delegation would be composed of six people from  
MIT, TGS and possibly MFA plus two drivers. They tentatively  
planned to drive from Turkey to Baghdad on Friday, August 22  
and begin their work the next day. A car from the Turkish  
embassy in Baghdad would meet the del at the border and guide  
the convoy back to Baghdad. Full details would be  
forthcoming as soon as the plan is finalized.

-- The second delegation would be composed of members of  
Parliament and possibly some academics. No date had been set.

-- The third delegation would be high-level, certainly at the  
ambassadorial level, possibly led by MFA U/S Ziyal.

¶3. (S) Burcuoglu noted that while details were yet to be  
worked out, the GOT was eyeing a strict September 15 deadline  
for obtaining parliamentary approval for deployment and thus  
all these activities would occur in time to meet that  
deadline. In addition, FM Gul planned to travel to  
neighboring countries and Europe to explain Turkey's rational  
for participating in the force. Burcuoglu noted that the GOT  
would need to explain its situation as a neighboring country  
particularly to France and Germany and would do so during  
previously scheduled visits such as PM Erdogan's visit to  
Germany Sept. 2 and FM Gul's trip to Italy for an EU informal  
FM meeting (including candidates) Sept. 5-6. These visits  
were in addition, Burcuoglu said, to the expected responses  
and further work in military channels. Charge said he hoped  
that answers to Ozkok's questions (ref A) would be  
forthcoming shortly. Burcuoglu responded that information  
about the location of the Turkish sector would be important  
so that the delegations could feel out the populations in  
that area. In response to our comment that the answer to  
some questions would depend on Turkish plans for numbers,  
Burcuoglu said they were talking about one full brigade,  
parts of a second and a division headquarters, with the  
division filled out by other contributors. An MFA deskoff  
told polmiloff separately that FM Gul had telephoned the  
owners of all the major newspapers in Turkey to explain that  
a deployment was in Turkey's interest and should not be cast  
just as a favor to the US.

¶4. (S) Burcuoglu then told Charge that Iraqi Governing  
Council Representative Songul Cabuk had visited Ankara August  
13 and proposed that five members of the GC make a visit to  
Ankara before the end of August. Burcuoglu said Turkey would  
enthusiastically welcome such a visit. While the composition  
was clearly a GC decision, Burcuoglu said, a delegation  
composed of Cabuk, the current Chairman, and the three  
members who accompanied UN Iraq Envoy de Mello to New York  
would be the most effective here. He noted however that "PKK  
sympathizer" GC member Mahmoud Othman should not be part of  
the delegation.

15. (S) Turning to two issues of less importance, Burcuoglu raised the Iraqi budget. He said that he himself had expressed concern to CPA Administrator Bremer in Washington about the Kurds having a separate budget. Bremer adamantly denied that this was the case. Nevertheless, MFA found on CPA's website that the budget is divided among ministries, except for the Kurdish regions, which is partitioned out. For example, on page 3 of the 2003 budget, it says, "Each Iraqi Ministry and Kurd region prepared a budget with their Coalition Senior Advisor." Burcuoglu noted that the budgets for Kurdish regions were higher than the budget for Baghdad which was 30 percent more populous.

16. (S) Finally Burcuoglu noted with pleasure that a border gate staffed with Iraqi customs officials had been opened on the Kuwaiti border. He urged the US to provide the same customs support on the Turkish border, which is currently being manned by the KDP.

17. (S) Comment: It is clear the Turks are now taking steps to persuade the Parliament and the Turkish public that participation is in Turkey's interest. We should encourage these proactive activities by supporting their visits to Iraq and urging the GC delegation to say the right things in support of Turkish participation when it comes to Ankara.

DEUTSCH